

# **The Hidden Feast**

## **A Folktale from the Southern United States**

Retold by Martha Hamilton & Mitch Weiss Copyright © 2006

This is a shorter, much simpler version of the picture book published by August House Publishers.

One day, the barnyard animals got an invitation.  
Their friends on the next farm were having a big party.  
So the animals set off down the road.  
Rooster led the way, strutting and crowing.

At the party they sang, danced, and played games.  
Finally, it was time to eat.  
The hosts brought in fancy bowls  
and placed them in front of the guests.  
But the only thing in each bowl was corn bread.  
All the animals were disappointed,  
but most of them were polite.

They said things like,  
“It was so nice of you to invite us.  
This corn bread looks delicious!”

But Rooster turned up his beak in disgust.  
“Corn bread! Is that all?” he cried.  
“Why, I eat corn bread every day!”  
With that, Rooster turned and strutted home.

When the other animals dug into the corn bread,  
they found mashed potatoes and black-eyed peas.  
And dessert was on the bottom!

When Rooster heard about the feast,  
he was upset.  
He could not believe that he had walked away  
from such a tasty meal.

But Rooster did not admit that he was wrong.  
He never apologized to his hosts for his rude behavior.  
He just pouted in silence.

But since that time,  
Rooster has never been fooled by what he sees on top.  
Watch him in the barnyard when he finds a bit of food.  
He scratches and scratches to get to the very bottom of it.  
Rooster wants to be certain that he will never again miss  
a hidden feast.